

**P&O Statement from 1/26/21 Meeting
2/6/21 BUSD BOD Meeting
Terry Pastika, Alt BHS**

Good evening, my name is Terry Pastika and I am from the Planning and Oversight Committee (P&O) which is an oversight advisory body that makes recommendations to the School Board on two special tax measures passed by Berkeley voters:

The first is BSEP, which voters have approved since 1986 to supplement the baseline property tax that funds the District, which was significantly impacted by Prop 13. BSEP's primary focus is funding class size reduction and the most recent measure passed in 2016. We are in year 4 of an 8 year measure that generates an additional ~\$32M/ year, or about 20% of BUSD's budget.

The second is BERRA, which voters approved in 2020 to supplement educator salaries and to promote recruitment, retention and hard to staff areas. We are in year 1 of this 12 year measure.

Every school in the District is represented on the P&O. I serve as an alternate from BHS and this is an overview of our Jan. 26, 2021 meeting.

The P&O covered a lot of ground to finish reviews of 2019-2020 Annual Reports in all program areas.

We continued to review of the High Quality Instruction Budget, which is by far the largest chunk of BSEP, 66%, and within HQI Budget we looked at the following sub components:

Class Size Reduction - which funds additional teachers to lower class sizes to target goals. Based on calculations BSEP funds about: 3 out of 10, or 30%, of educators and in 2019 this was \$15M/ of BSEP's total \$32M, which included a supplemental \$1M to the General Fund because of budget concerns last year.

We looked at the Professional Development budget which in 2019 BSEP spent about \$1.3M. We reviewed the various programs educators had access to and heard about concerns for the upcoming year. P&O members asked for information about the impact of the significant spending on professional develop in terms of data driven outcomes, and if a side group is needed to look at data collection to assess how PD is used, the quantifiable impact on students, and what's happening using an equity lens.

We looked at the Program Evaluation budget, which is about \$350K and how the Districts collects data. We reviewed the issues being tracked and had a robust discussion on issues like:

- With so many students struggling with distance learning is there tracking of students who fall into needing RTI/ Lit and Math coaching.
- In previous years, the district provided schools with multi-year testing data, but with the change last year to STAR testing, lost this ability. When will the District return to being able to provide schools test results over a multi-year time period for review?"
- The HS used to have staff resources dedicated to responding to data requests and it was noticed that is no longer supported, and is there the opportunity to address that.

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We reviewed the **Technology Annual report** and all of the work done during distance learning. P&O members discussed

- If the District has a systemic manner in which it determines what tech resources student need vs. it being an opt-in system that parents need to seek out
- is there any kind of assessment looking at the connection between the poor attendance in distance learning and those students who need tech support?
- Additional questions about parental controls on District issued chrome books and more information about who is the Berkeley Public Schools Fund.

We next reviewed the **School Site Fund Annual Report** and how individual schools choose to spent their share of the \$3M in Site Funds.

The last area reviewed was the proposed Cost of Living Adjustments, or COLA, for BSEP and BERRA, which looks at what the proposed tax increase is for next year, which heard based on the Bay Area Consumer Price Index is 2% for both

Question in this area were how does the COLA get integrated into the educator pay scale and are there any years where there are unforeseen expenditures where BSEP has to spend more than anticipated.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide this brief recap. The next P&O meeting is February 23rd at 6:30 online. We invite any of you, as well as members of the public to attend.

Thanks.